

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Please amend the drawings. The parts of Fig. 5 have been labeled Fig. 5A, 5B, and 5C pursuant to the Examiner's requirement. A sheet showing the changes marked in red and a replacement sheet with the changes are attached hereto.

**REMARKS****I. Reconsideration of the objections the specification, drawings and claims 4-12 and 15 is respectfully requested**

Applicants have amended the specification at page 1, lines 5 – 6 to delete the phrase “according to the pre-characterizing portion of claims 1 and 13.” The specification has further been amended at page 3, line 4, to delete the phrase “, with the features of the characterized portion of claim 1.”

The parts of Fig. 5 have been labeled 5A, 5B and 5C, as requested.

The multiple dependencies in the claims have been removed in order to overcome the objection.

Applicants submit that such amendments to the specification, drawings, and claims overcome the objections. It is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

**II. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 – 4, 13 and 14 under U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested**

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to delete the phrase “in particular”. Claim 13 has been further amended to recite that the surface of the friction lining “ rising or falling” in the radial direction.

Applicants submit that such amendments to the claims overcome the section 112 rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**III. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1 – 3, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), over the Loeffler U.S. Patent No. 1,810,360, and claims 1 and 2, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), over the**

Staub U.S. Patent No. 4,287,978 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the raised surface has a spring characteristic. (See Specification, page 9; Fig. 6.) Neither the Loeffler nor Staub references disclose this feature. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the section 102(b) rejections based on the cited references be withdrawn.

IV. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the Wemp U.S. Patent No. 2,038,016 reference, and claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the Gamble U.S. Patent No. 1,883,682 reference is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the surface of the friction lining rising or falling in the radial direction. (See Specification, page 5; Fig. 1.) Neither the Wemp nor the Gamble references disclose this feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the section 102(b) rejections based on the cited references be withdrawn.

V. Dependent claims 1 – 7, 10 – 12 and new claims 16 – 20 are patentably distinct.

Dependent claims 1 – 7, 10 – 12 and new claims 16 – 20 are patentably distinct. The features of these claims are not disclosed by the art of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims be allowed.

In view of the amendments to the drawings, the specification and claims and

the arguments presented herein, Applicants submit that the present invention is in condition for allowance and a favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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& PORCELLO CO., L.P.A.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles R. Schaub".

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This diagram shows a cross-sectional view of a second embodiment of the device. It features a substrate 21 with a top surface 22 and a bottom surface 23. A layer 23v is formed on the top surface 22, and a layer 22v is formed on the bottom surface 23. The layer 23v has a cross-hatched pattern, and the layer 22v has a diagonal line pattern. The layer 23v is thicker on the left side and tapers to the right. The layer 22v is thicker on the right side and tapers to the left. The layers 23v and 22v meet at a point on the right side. The layer 23v is labeled with 23v, and the layer 22v is labeled with 22v. The top surface 22 is labeled with 22, and the bottom surface 23 is labeled with 23. The layer 23v is labeled with O23v, and the layer 22v is labeled with O22v. The layer 23v is labeled with Ra, and the layer 22v is labeled with Ri. The layer 23v is labeled with O22r, and the layer 22v is labeled with O23r.